

ASSAY OFFICE IN ARIZONA.

MARCH 10, 1880.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. STEPHENS, from the Committee on Coinage, Weights, and Measures, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 3003.]

The Committee on Coinage, Weights, and Measures, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 3003) to establish an assay office in the Territory of Arizona, after full consideration, report in favor of the passage of the bill.

The rapidly-developing mining interests, both of gold and silver, in that Territory require that an assay office should be established as near these great interests as practicable. The exact location is left to the discretion of the Secretary.

It is estimated by Hon. John G. Campbell, the Delegate from that Territory, that the products of the gold and silver mines within the limits of Arizona will, during the present year, amount to nearly, if not quite, ten millions of dollars. Should this estimate prove to be approximately true, a necessity of the immediate erection of the proposed assay office cannot be questioned.

For further information, a paper submitted by Mr. Campbell to the committee is hereto appended as part of this report, and asked to be printed with it.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 14, 1880.

The following statistics of the approximate products of the mines of gold and silver in the Territory of Arizona are presented to the honorable the Committee on Coinage, Weights, and Measures in support of the bill (H. R. 3003) "To establish an assay office in the Territory of Arizona." They are taken from official and reliable data, and show in part the present condition of mining interests of the Territory. From the report of the Director of the Mint it is stated that for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1877, the product of gold was \$77,300; of silver, \$500,000. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1878, the product of gold was \$500,000 and of silver \$3,000,000. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1879, the product of gold was \$800,000; of silver, \$3,550,000. From approximate estimates the product of the mines will be nearly doubled by the end of the present fiscal year.

While the product of the precious metals in California for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1879, amounted to \$20,000,000; it is reasonable to estimate that the Territory of Arizona during and at the termination of the present year will be at least half that amount. From the annual statement of Wells, Fargo & Co. of precious metals produced west of the Missouri River during the year 1878, the amount of gold dust and bullion sent by express from Arizona Territory was \$119,911; dust, &c., by other conveyances, \$19,911; silver and doré bullion by express, \$1,116,606; ores and bullion by freight, \$951,555; making a total for the year of \$2,287,983. While for the year ending December 31, 1879, the product was: Gold, \$212,722; by other conveyance, \$21,272; silver, \$1,046,036; ores, &c., \$662,373, making a total of \$1,942,403.

This does not include the very large amount, especially of gold products, that are taken away annually by individual miners on their person or otherwise.

The mineral resources of the Territory are as yet but partially developed, and it is reasonable to conclude, with the great influx of immigration of mining population from the neighboring States and Territories, that in a few years the mining products will be quadrupled. There are a number of private assay-offices in the Territory, and doubtless the assays made are accurate, but that does not answer the requirements of the mining interests, because no official character can be given to such assays. The stamp and imprint of the government assayer is needed to give authority and character to the minerals when assayed.

It is requested that the above statements will be considered by the committee when the bill comes up before them as an argument for the policy and necessity of building and establishing an assay office, which, it is confidently anticipated, will, in the course of a few years, be self-sustaining as to its expense on the general government.

All of which is respectfully submitted by your obedient servant,

JOHN G. CAMPBELL,
Delegate for Arizona.

WELLS, FARGO & COMPANY,
EXCHANGE, BANKING, AND EXPRESS,
San Francisco, December 31, 1879.

DEAR SIR: The following is a copy of our annual statement of precious metals produced in the States and Territories west of the Missouri River, including British Columbia (and receipts in San Francisco by express from the west coast of Mexico), during 1879, which shows aggregate products as follows: Gold, \$32,539,920; silver, \$38,623,812; lead, \$4,185,769. Total gross result, \$75,349,502, being less by \$5,805,121 than for 1878.

California shows a decrease in gold of \$140,342, and in silver of \$589,146—a net decrease of \$729,488. Nevada shows a total falling off of \$13,184,235, the yield from the Comstock being only \$8,830,562, as against \$21,295,043 for 1878—a decrease of \$12,464,481 from that locality. The product of Eureka district is \$5,859,261, as against \$6,981,406 for 1878—a decrease of \$1,122,145. Utah shows a falling off of \$595,734. Colorado shows an increase of over \$8,000,000, chiefly from Leadville district. It has been exceedingly difficult to arrive at the actual production of Leadville, the two most reliable reports varying more than \$2,000,000. We have adopted an average based upon the conflicting figures. Dakota shows an increase of \$993,183.

Statement of the amount of precious metals produced in the States and Territories west of the Missouri River, including British Columbia (and receipts in San Francisco by express from the west coast of Mexico), during the year 1879.

States and Territories.	Gold dust and bullion by express.	Gold dust and bullion by other conveyances.	Silver: bullion by express.	Ores and base bullion by freight.	Total.
California	\$16,348,730	\$817,436	\$739,440	\$285,367	\$18,190,973
Nevada	168,847		16,622,472	5,206,395	21,997,714
Oregon	943,601	94,360			1,037,961
Washington	77,579	7,757			85,336
Idaho	1,035,804	207,160	578,336	270,000	2,091,300
Montana	1,907,053	95,352	1,194,389	432,226	3,629,020
Utah	211,640	21,164	2,559,042	2,677,033	5,468,879
Colorado	3,144,697	814,469	1,594,349	9,360,000	14,413,515
New Mexico	19,800		603,000		622,800
Arizona	212,722	21,272	1,046,036	662,373	1,942,403
Dakota	2,674,156	534,831			3,208,987
Mexico (west coast)	92,916		1,249,955	341,000	1,683,871
British Columbia	976,742				976,742
Total	27,814,287	2,113,801	26,187,019	19,234,394	75,349,501

The bullion from the Comstock lode contains 41.20 per cent. gold, and 58.80 per cent. silver. Of the so-called base bullion from Nevada, 27 per cent. was gold, and of the whole product of the State, 27.50 per cent. was gold.

The gross yield for 1879, shown above, segregated, is, approximately, as follows:

Gold.....	43.20 per cent..	\$32,539,920
Silver.....	51.25 per cent..	38,623,812
Lead.....	5.55 per cent..	4,185,769
		<hr/> 75,349,501

The outlook for 1880 does not indicate a greater product than for 1879.

Annual products of lead, silver, and gold in the States and Territories west of the Missouri River, 1870-79.

Year.	Products as per W. F. & Co.'s statements, including amounts British Columbia and west coast of Mexico.	Product after deducting amounts from British Columbia and west coast of Mexico.	The net product of the States and Territories west of the Missouri River, exclusive of British Columbia and west coast of Mexico, divided, is as follows—		
			Lead.	Silver.	Gold.
1870.....	\$54,000,000	\$52,150,000	\$1,080,000	\$17,320,000	\$33,750,000
1871.....	58,284,000	55,784,000	2,100,000	19,286,000	34,398,000
1872.....	62,236,959	60,351,824	2,250,000	19,924,429	38,177,395
1873.....	72,258,693	70,139,860	3,450,000	27,483,302	39,206,553
1874.....	74,401,045	71,965,610	3,800,000	29,699,122	38,466,483
1875.....	80,889,057	76,703,433	5,100,000	31,635,239	39,968,194
1876.....	90,875,173	87,219,859	5,040,000	39,292,924	42,886,935
1877.....	98,421,754	95,811,582	5,085,250	45,846,109	44,880,223
1878.....	81,154,622	78,276,167	3,452,000	37,248,137	37,576,030
1879.....	75,349,501	72,688,888	4,185,769	37,032,857	31,470,262

The exports of silver during the present year to Japan, China, India, the Straits, &c., have been as follows: From Southampton, \$33,000,000; Marseilles and Venice, \$5,000,000; San Francisco, \$3,000,000. Total, \$46,000,000, as against \$39,000,000 from the same places in 1878.

JNO. J. VALENTINE,
General Superintendent.

